

SECRET

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carns*

17 JUN 1970

The Honorable Henry A. Kissinger  
Assistant to the President  
for National Security Affairs  
The White House

Dear Henry:

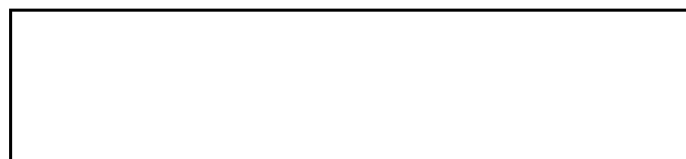
Your memorandum to me of 21 May 1970 suggests the installation of a COINS terminal in the White House in order to provide an opportunity to evaluate the possible use of such a system to supply certain types of information to the White House. I have given the proposal careful consideration. There are a number of reasons why I do not believe that such an installation would be a worthwhile project at the present time.

We have agreed with the Director of the National Security Agency that interim programming for COINS should be extended through FY 72 in order that an orderly evaluation of COINS and a study as to a workable configuration for COINS could be carried out. It is not anticipated that the present network will be continued. COINS is not in operational condition at the present time and is not able to provide usable data to analysts on a reliable or continuing basis. In any case, the files being used for the COINS experiment contain for the most part unevaluated raw data. Six files contain



The COINS system is not being structured to provide that type of information which would be of value to the White House.

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As the communications system for the handling of digital data between computers and related terminals in the Washington area is improved over the next year or so, it is possible that it will become feasible to provide some information to the White House through a terminal connected to a formatted evaluated data base in a CIA computer. This is a matter which our respective staffs should consider as new capabilities are developed. It would not be worthwhile to attempt this at the present stage of development.

If you have now or anticipate a requirement for online access to particular intelligence data, I will do my best to satisfy this requirement if you will have it identified to me. The staff here would be glad to assist in the development of concepts and exploring alternate configurations for a computer based information handling system for the White House.

Sincerely,

/s/ Richard Helms

Richard Helms

25X1



(4 Jun 70)

Distribution:

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1 - DCI

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25X1



2.

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Executive Registry
70-2650

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

May 21, 1970


MEMORANDUM FOR

DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

SUBJECT: Participation in the COINS System

I understand that the existing experimental COINS network will be continued for another two years. This affords an opportunity to evaluate, among other things, the possible use of such a system to supply certain types of information to the White House.

I would appreciate it if arrangements could be made for the White House to participate in the system and to have a COINS terminal here.

  
Henry A. Kissinger

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### OFFICIAL ROUTING SLIP

TO	NAME AND ADDRESS	DATE	INITIALS
1	The Director	22 MAY 1979	<i>[Signature]</i>
2	D/DCI/NIPE		
3			
4			
5			
6			

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ACTION	<input type="checkbox"/> DIRECT REPLY	<input type="checkbox"/> PREPARE REPLY
<input type="checkbox"/> APPROVAL	<input type="checkbox"/> DISPATCH	<input type="checkbox"/> RECOMMENDATION
<input type="checkbox"/> COMMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> FILE	<input type="checkbox"/> RETURN
<input type="checkbox"/> CONCURRENCE	<input type="checkbox"/> INFORMATION	<input type="checkbox"/> SIGNATURE

**Remarks:**

*[Handwritten notes in Remarks section]*

FOLD HERE TO RETURN TO SENDER

FROM: NAME, ADDRESS AND PHONE NO.	DATE